

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 5:15 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Bernie Erickson, Jim Haskins, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Joe Witkowski, Jerry Polus, John Walschinski, Sherry Steenbock
EXCUSED: Don Bettine, Troy Ness, John Maino

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1197

1. **Call Meeting to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:15 p.m.

2. **Invocation by Jim Haskins.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHERRY STEENBOCK, SECONDED BY JIM HASKINS TO APPROVE. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of August 16, 2011:**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DUANE PIERCE, SECONDED BY JOHN WALSCHINSKI TO APPROVE. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Discussion/evaluation of Armed Forces Appreciation Day at Brown County Fair (August 20, 2011).**

Jerry Polus thanked John Walschinski for securing the donation from Tweet Garot which covered the expenses of the Pulaski Band. He also thanked Jim Haskins for managing things at the Fairgrounds; Bernie Erickson and County Executive Troy Streckenbach for their presentations; Joe Witkowski for his support; and Tom Mahoney for being the master of ceremonies. Polus stated that he felt this was the best Appreciation Day they have had and stated that the Pulaski Band was excellent. The weather was perfect, the ceremony flowed very nicely and was well attended and the Fair Board did a great job of setting things up. The only glitch was that the color guard did not show up. Erickson indicated that a thought for next year would be to have the rodeo color guard do the opening flag ceremony for Appreciation Day. Duane Pierce also stated that he may also be able to assist in securing a color guard for next year if necessary. Polus stated that he felt we should start planning for next year's ceremony in January by checking availability of the Hot Brass Band or the Wisconsin National Guard band.

Joe Witkowski shared pictures he had taken of the Pulaski Band with the Subcommittee. He suggested that a photo of the band be forwarded to the Press Gazette for publication in the Community Snapshot section and Erickson stated he will handle that. Erickson also stated that he would prepare a thank you note for the Pulaski Band and include a picture for them as well.

John Walschinski spoke in connection with the \$750 donation received from Tweet Garot. He stated that he and Erickson recently met at Tweet Garot to present them with a thank you plaque for the donation. Pictures were taken and should be available at the next meeting.

6. **Report from CVSO - Jerry Polus:**

Polus reported that the Veterans Court Committee had met earlier in the day. Veterans Court is moving ahead and will be ready on Veterans Days, November 11, 2011. Several members of the Committee will be going to Eau Claire in the very near future to spend time observing their

Veterans Court and Polus noted that Eau Claire County had been very supportive in providing information to Brown County. Polus stated that they cannot budget tax dollars for the Veterans Court and although many costs are absorbed within the court system, there will still be other expenses. He will be preparing a letter to send out to all 30 Veterans organizations in the area asking if they would make contributions in support of Veterans Court.

Polus also reported that the budget process for his department has gone very well. The County Executive did not make any changes to the proposed budget he submitted. This will now go to the Human Services Committee for approval and then on to the full County Board for approval.

7. Report from Committee Members Present (Haskins, Pierce, Steenbock, Walschinski, Witkowski, Erickson):

Jim Haskins reported on a number of items including:

- ❖ A Walk and Roll Patriot Day event was held on September 10 in Allouez. This event was for veterans as well as handicapped citizens.
- ❖ Dental Associates donated \$10,000 and their staff, vendors and patients raised another \$35,000 for a total of \$45,000 to send 90 people to Washington DC as part of the Old Glory Honor Flight program.
- ❖ The Fire & Iron event was held on September 10 at the Neville Public Museum. Over 350 motorcycles participated and Bellin Hospital donated \$10,000.00 for the Wisconsin Alliance for Burn Safety Burn Camp.
- ❖ A ceremony will be held on November 12, 2011 at Green Bay Yacht Club from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. for all active military veterans, family members and the general public. There will be a 21 gun salute and a nice spread of food.
- ❖ A 61 year old Vietnam vet recently became the oldest player to ever play in a college football game. He used a square toe to kick an extra point for his team to win the game.

Duane Pierce reported that September 16 was POW/MIA Day and a ceremony was held at the POW/MIA memorial flagpole outside of the courthouse. This ceremony was attended by approximately 50 people and went well. Pierce also stated that there are still 29 missing soldiers from Wisconsin from the Vietnam War.

He also reported that they are planning a dedication and open house at their new Legion Post on Irwin Avenue on the evening of Veterans Day. He will have more information on this at the next meeting.

Sherry Steenbock reported that four new certificates had been mailed out. She also provided the Subcommittee with last year's list of donations/discounts for Veterans Day so the members could make calls to confirm donations for this year.

John Walschinski stated that he will prepare more thank you certificates for any future donations received.

Joe Witkowski brought up the possibility of having a blurb in the newspaper regarding the appreciation certificate presentation to Tweet Garot. A discussion followed and it was decided not to do this without permission from Tweet Garot.

He also reported that there will be a Veterans Hiring Fair at the Lambeau Field Atrium on October 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This hiring fair will be conducted in direct partnership with the Wisconsin Office for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and Wisconsin Public Television.

Witkowski also shared a newspaper article on Dakota Meyer, a young Marine Corporal who defied orders and tempted fate by charging five times in a Humvee into heavy gunfire in the darkness of an Afghanistan valley to rescue comrades under attack by Taliban insurgents. On September 15, 2011 Dakota Meyer was presented the Medal of Honor by President Obama at the White House. Meyer is the third living recipient and the first Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Bernie Erickson reported that Art Lang's son is now recovering at a hospital in Texas for injuries suffered in Afghanistan. Erickson suggested that a letter be created to send out on behalf of the Veterans Subcommittee to make him aware of the services that would be available when he returns home.

8. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

9. **Adjourn.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO ADJOURN AT 5:53 P.M. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary